

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Request for Decision

Date: January 12, 2026	File: 5c
To: Council	From: Chief Administrative Officer
Re: DRAFT Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268	
Recommendation: THAT Council gives first three readings to Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268.	

Purpose

For Council to consider adopting a Wastewater Regulations Bylaw to formally regulate the District's wastewater collection systems and codify existing operational practices.

Background

As part of the District's ongoing review and modernization of its utility-related bylaws, Council has been undertaking a coordinated and comprehensive update to ensure legislative compliance, consistency across utility services, and the codification of current best practices.

At the October 6, 2025 Regular Meeting, Council adopted Utility Billing Bylaw No. 260, which now governs customer accounts and billing processes for all utilities. Following this adoption, staff have been bringing forward individual utility service bylaws to align with the new billing framework and to ensure clarity for both staff and the public.

The District currently operates three wastewater collection systems:

- Siska Wastewater Collection System
- Riverwalk Wastewater Collection System
- Downtown SAWRC Wastewater Collection System

At present, there is no standalone bylaw that comprehensively governs wastewater collection services within the District. Wastewater-related practices have historically been managed through operational procedures, development requirements, and indirect regulatory tools. As the District continues to grow and wastewater service areas expand, a formal bylaw is required to clearly define responsibilities, standards, and authorities related to wastewater services.

Draft Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268 has been prepared to address this gap. The draft bylaw is designed to codify the District's current regulations, operational practices, and industry standards that are already being applied across all three wastewater systems.

Overview of the Draft Bylaw

The proposed Wastewater Regulations Bylaw establishes a clear and consistent regulatory framework for the use, connection to, and protection of the District's Wastewater Collection Systems.

Key elements of the draft bylaw include:

- Establishment and regulation of the Wastewater Collection Systems and service areas.
- Requirements for mandatory connection where wastewater services are available subject to a Council approved exemption. **Section 4** of the proposed Bylaw outlines the exemption criteria and addresses those properties that currently have an approved 5yr exemption to connect due to a recent ROWP report being provided to the District:
 - *The Owner of property that produces wastewater and is eligible to connect to a District's Wastewater Collection System, must connect the property's Wastewater discharge to the District's Wastewater Collection System unless:*
 - *Council has approved an exemption under section 4.2 of this bylaw; or*
 - *At the date of bylaw adoption, the owner has a current District approved exemption due to an accepted Registered Onsite Wastewater Professional (ROWP) report indicating that the property is serviced by a private septic system that has been inspected and the ROWP attests that in their professional opinion, the private septic system is currently, and will continue to be, in good working order for at least five (5) years from the date of inspection.*
 - *An Owner of property subject to an exemption under Section 4.1 ii. of this bylaw, remains exempt of this Section for a period of five (5) years from the date of bylaw adoption. At the end of the five (5) year exemption period, property owners subject to this exemption must apply to Council for a further extension, on a year to year basis, up to no more than a five (5) additional years.*
- Application and approval processes for wastewater service connections and disconnections.
- Alignment with the District's Fees and Charges Bylaw and Utility Billing Bylaw for cost recovery.
- Construction and material standards consistent with the Master Municipal Construction Documents (MMCD).
- Wastewater quality standards, including authority for staff to require pre-treatment where necessary to protect infrastructure and treatment processes.
- Clear delineation of maintenance responsibilities between the District and property owners.
- Authority for temporary or permanent disconnection of service to protect system integrity or respond to emergencies.
- Inspection and enforcement provisions consistent with other District bylaws.
- Alignments will be made for this proposed bylaw's offences and penalties with the District's Bylaw Notice Enforcement framework once necessary amendments are made to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 95. Staff plan on presenting a draft amendment for Council consideration early this spring.

The draft bylaw also provides staff with authority to update the Wastewater Service Area map as infrastructure expands, ensuring the bylaw remains current without requiring frequent amendments.

Rationale for Adoption

The adoption of Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268 provides several important benefits:

- Codifies existing District practices that are already being applied across all wastewater systems.
- Provides transparency and certainty for property owners regarding connection requirements, responsibilities, and standards.
- Ensures consistency with recently adopted and forthcoming utility-related bylaws.
- Strengthens the District's ability to protect wastewater infrastructure and comply with provincial regulatory requirements.
- Establishes a scalable regulatory framework to support future growth and expansion of wastewater services.

Summary

Overall, the bylaw reflects how the District currently operates its wastewater utilities and formalizes these practices into an enforceable regulatory document.

Benefits or Impact

General

The proposed bylaw provides clear guidance to staff, property owners, and developers regarding wastewater services and expectations within the District.

Finances

There are no direct financial impacts associated with adopting this bylaw. Costs associated with wastewater services and connections are recovered through existing fees, charges, and utility billing mechanisms.

Strategic Impact

Priority #3: Create Opportunities for Community Growth

Goal 3. Complete critical Utility Bylaw and Utility Master Plan revisions

Actions to get us there:

- a. Develop a new Wastewater Regulations Bylaw.
- b. Update the Water Regulations Bylaw to include provisions that address mobile home parks and other emerging items.

The Results We Want to See:

- a. Present a Wastewater Bylaw for Council consideration in 2025.
- b. Present a Water Bylaw update for Council consideration in 2025.

Risk Assessment

The bylaw aligns with the Community Charter and applicable provincial legislation governing municipal wastewater services.

Risk Impact: Low

Internal Control Process:

The draft bylaw has undergone a thorough internal review and reflects current operational practices, applicable legislation, and industry standards.

Next Steps / Communication

- If Council grants first three readings, the Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268 will be brought forward for final adoption at a subsequent Council meeting.
 - Staff will continue advancing the related bylaws to ensure full alignment across all District utility services and enforcement.
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Attachments

- Draft Bylaw No. 268 – Wastewater Regulations Bylaw

Recommendation

THAT Council gives first three readings to Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268.

Alternative Options

1. Council could amend the bylaw.
2. Council could choose not to implement an updated bylaw at this time. This is not recommended as a utility billing bylaw was established recently, and this bylaw needs to be created to ensure that there is no conflicting language in place and current best practices are codified.

Prepared by:

T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:

D. Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
DRAFT - BYLAW NO. 268

A BYLAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE AND REGULATION OF THE WASTEWATER
COLLECTION SYSTEM OF THE DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

The Council for the District of Barriere, in open meeting lawfully assembled, **ENACTS** as follows:

1. Title

1.1 This bylaw may be cited as the “*Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268*”.

2. Definitions:

2.1 In this bylaw, unless the context requires otherwise:

“**Authorized**” or “**Authorization**” granted by Staff means approved in writing by Staff on the terms and conditions specified in that written approval;

“**Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw**” means the District’s current Bylaw Enforcement Bylaw No. 95, as amended or replaced from time to time.

“**Bylaw Enforcement Officer**” means an RCMP Officer, peace officer, and/or any of the following District of Barriere staff or their designate:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- Utilities Manager
- Utilities Staff (Operators)
- Building Inspector

“**Council**” shall mean the Council of the District of Barriere;

“**Domestic Wastewater**” shall have the same definition as “domestic sewage” in the *Sewerage System Regulation, BC. Reg. 326/2004*;

“**Effluent**” means the liquid outflow of any facility designed to treat or convey Wastewater;

“**Eligible Property**” means a parcel of land that is serviceable by a municipal wastewater collection system via installed infrastructure adjacent to the parcel of land.

“**Fees and Charges Bylaw**” means the current Fees and Charges Bylaw No.73, as amended or replaced from time to time;

“**Inspection Chamber (IC)**” shall mean the valve on a wastewater service connection located on the street or lane at or near an Owner’s parcel boundary;

“**Master Municipal Construction Documents**” or “**MMCD**” means the most current construction documents applicable to the Wastewater Collection System;

"Owner" has the same meaning as in the *Community Charter*, as amended or replaced from time to time.

"Pre-treatment" means the use of any physical or chemical process to ensure the composition of private Effluent conforms to the minimum requirements of this bylaw;

"Staff" means Chief Administrative Officer or designate.

"Utility Billing Bylaw" means the District's current Utility Billing Bylaw No. 260, as amended or replaced from time to time.

"Wastewater" means the water-borne wastes of the community derived from human, non-domestic, commercial, industrial or institutional sources, but does not include rainwater, groundwater, or drainage of uncontaminated water.

"Wastewater Service" means the supply of a Wastewater Service Connection from the District's Wastewater Collection System to any premises;

"Wastewater Service Connection" means the pipe or fitting which forms the connection between private property and the Wastewater Collection System;

"Wastewater Collection System" means all sewerage works and all appurtenances thereto, including sewer mains, wastewater service connections, pumping stations, treatment plants, lagoons, and sewer outfalls laid within any highway, municipal right-of-way or easement and owned and operated by the District and installed for the purpose of conveying, treating, and disposing of Wastewater.

3. General Provisions:

- 3.1. To the extent that the District has not already established the service of Wastewater collection, the District hereby establishes the service of collecting Wastewater into the Wastewater Collection System from properties in the area defined by Schedule A, by operating, constructing, maintaining, regulating, repairing, and imposing requirements on the Wastewater Collection System.
 - a. Staff is authorized to update the map in Schedule A as the District's Wastewater Collection System is expanded.
- 3.2. The District does not guarantee collection but shall make reasonable effort to collect Wastewater.
- 3.3. The District is not liable for damages caused by failure of the Wastewater Collection System.
- 3.4. A person shall not cause the Wastewater Collection System to fail a Ministry of Environment or any other permit requirement.
- 3.5. A person may discharge Wastewater to the Wastewater Collection System provided they meet the conditions of this bylaw.

- 3.6. Staff is authorized to make orders, deliver notices, approve or refuse to approve applications for service connections and to make other decisions about specific service connections and the Wastewater Collection System, and otherwise administer this Bylaw.

4. Requirement To Connect:

- 4.1. The Owner of property that produces wastewater and is eligible to connect to a District's Wastewater Collection System, must connect the property's Wastewater discharge to the District's Wastewater Collection System unless:
 - i. Council has approved an exemption under section 4.2 of this bylaw; or
 - ii. At the date of bylaw adoption, the owner has a current District approved exemption due to an accepted Registered Onsite Wastewater Professional (ROWP) report indicating that the property is serviced by a private septic system that has been inspected and the ROWP attests that in their professional opinion, the private septic system is currently, and will continue to be, in good working order for at least five (5) years from the date of inspection.
- 4.2. An Owner of property subject to an exemption under Section 4.1 ii. of this bylaw, remains exempt of this Section for a period of five (5) years from the date of bylaw adoption. At the end of the five (5) year exemption period, property owners subject to this exemption must apply to Council for a further extension, on a year to year basis, up to no more than a five (5) additional years.
- 4.3. If the District expands a Wastewater Collection System Service Area, property owners eligible to connect to such a system shall within 5 years of Wastewater Collection System availability, connect to the District's Wastewater Collection System. Council may, in extenuating circumstances, by resolution, grant a further extension beyond the initial 5 year term, on a year to year basis, up to no more than five (5) additional years.

5. Applications and Permits:

- 5.1. An Owner may not connect a Wastewater Service Connection to or disconnect a Wastewater Service Connection from the District's Wastewater Collection System without prior authorization from Staff.
- 5.2. An Owner must apply for provision of Wastewater Service using the District's current form and process as may be amended from time to time.
- 5.3. Staff shall process a completed application in a timely manner.
- 5.4. Staff shall not process an application until an applicant pays the applicable fees and charges.

6. Fees and Charges:

- 6.1. The District shall charge the applicable fees in the Fees and Charges Bylaw for Wastewater Service.
- 6.2. An Owner shall pay the applicable fees and charges in the Fees and Charges Bylaw for Wastewater Service.

- 6.3. The District may charge a fee to any eligible property able to be serviced by a municipal Wastewater Collection System regardless of the existence of the production of Wastewater by that property unless an exemption is granted under section 4.2 of this Bylaw.
- 6.4. An Owner requesting a wastewater service extension in order to connect to a municipal Wastewater Collection System, is responsible for all costs associated with extending the District's Wastewater Collection System to service their property including, but not limited to, the cost of installing a Wastewater Service Connection, and any upgrades to or extensions of other parts of the Wastewater Collection System should the extension request be approved by the District.
- 6.5. An Owner is responsible for all costs associated with meeting the standards of this bylaw.
- 6.6. An Owner is responsible for all costs associated with disconnecting a Wastewater Service Connection.

7. Wastewater Service Standards:

- 7.1. Staff shall approve parts and materials used in Wastewater Services, and a Wastewater Service Connection connected to the District's Wastewater Collection System must conform to the Master Municipal Construction Documents as amended from time to time.
- 7.2. An Owner must construct or disconnect a Wastewater Service Connection in compliance with the District's standards.
- 7.3. Staff must approve a person or a business constructing or disconnecting a Wastewater Service.

8. Wastewater Standards:

- 8.1. Staff may designate any substance or concentration of substance as harmful to the Wastewater Collection System as consistent with industry practices and/or District treatment capability.
- 8.2. Staff may set the District's Wastewater quality standards, which shall, at a minimum, comply with applicable provincial laws and regulations regarding Wastewater.
- 8.3. An Owner must only discharge Domestic Wastewater to the Wastewater Collection System that meets the District's Wastewater quality standards unless otherwise expressly permitted by an applicable District Bylaw.
- 8.4. An Owner may apply to Staff in writing for permission to discharge Wastewater that does not meet Wastewater quality standards; however, any permission shall include the condition that the Owner shall be liable for any discharges of Wastewater which contravene any provincial or federal law or regulation.

- 8.5. Upon receiving permission from Staff, a person may discharge Wastewater to the Wastewater Collection System that does not meet the Wastewater quality standards, subject to any terms and conditions imposed by Staff, and in such a way that it does not harm the Wastewater Collection System.
- 8.6. Staff may require the pre-treatment of Wastewater that does not meet the Wastewater quality standards, including, but not limited to, the permanent installation of an engineered device capable of intercepting grease, oil, grit, flammable or reactive liquids/gases, or other such harmful substances.
- 8.7. Staff must approve any pre-treatment system connected to the Wastewater Collection System.

9. Volume:

- 9.1. Where Wastewater is discharged into the Wastewater Collection System in volumes that Staff determines may exceed the available downstream system capacity, Staff may by written notice require the Owner to take measures to equalize the discharge volumes and strengths.

10. Maintenance:

- 10.1. The District shall be responsible for the maintenance of the wastewater collection service from the center of Inspection Chamber (IC) to the District's sewer main. The property Owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of the wastewater collection service, from the center of Inspection Chamber (IC) to their building.
- 10.2. An Owner is responsible for maintaining in good repair a Wastewater Service Connection from their building to the centre of Inspection Chamber.
- 10.3. An Owner must immediately advise the District of any defect in their Wastewater Service Connection.

11. Disconnection of Service:

- 11.1. Staff are authorized to temporarily disconnect a Wastewater Service Connection for any reasonable cause including, but not limited to:
 - a. maintaining, repairing, replacing, disinfecting, or otherwise operating the Wastewater Collection System;
 - b. an emergency;
- 11.2. Staff must give notice of not less than two days for any non-emergency or scheduled shut off of the Wastewater Service Connection.
- 11.3. Staff may disconnect a service if:
 - a. it jeopardizes the Wastewater Collection System's quality or performance because of its construction;

- b. a property Owner requests a Disconnection;
 - c. a person contravenes a provision of this bylaw.
- 11.4. Where water supply is to be disconnected, the regulations as set out in the Utility Billing Bylaw will apply, unless an immediate disconnect is required to maintain the integrity of the Waterworks System.

12. Offences and Penalties:

- 12.1. A person who contravenes this bylaw is subject to a fine as specified in the District's Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw.
- 12.2. Each day that a contravention of this bylaw continues constitutes a separate offence.
- 12.3. The District may fulfill a requirement of this bylaw at the expense of a person failing to take the required action and recover the costs incurred as a debt.
- 12.4. An Owner must not:
 - a. enter into or undertake any work upon or interfere with any aspect of the Wastewater Collection System unless authorized by Staff;
 - b. discharge into the Wastewater Collection System anything that will:
 - i. cause the Wastewater Collection System to not meet a regulatory requirement;
 - ii. harm the Wastewater Collection System;
 - iii. negatively impact the Wastewater treatment process;
 - iv. cause public or employee health or safety hazards;
- 12.5. A person must not sell, give away or permit use of the Wastewater Collection System for benefit, except to those persons authorized by Staff.
- 12.6. A person must not use the Wastewater Collection System to drain rainwater from their property, remove ground water, or receive septage.
- 12.7. At the Owner's expense, a person must ensure that every inspection chamber and manhole on or adjacent to their property remains accessible for inspection by Staff at all times.

13. Inspections:

- 13.1. Staff or a Bylaw Enforcement Officer may enter a property at a reasonable time for the purpose of inspecting and ascertaining whether a person or Owner is observing the regulations and requirements of this bylaw.

- 13.2. Except in the case of an emergency, the District shall take reasonable steps to advise the property Owner of their intent to enter a property.
- 13.3. Staff may, at any time and without notice, take Wastewater samples from a Wastewater Service or otherwise inspect it to determine whether a person or Owner is contravening this bylaw.
- 13.4. A person shall not obstruct or interfere with Staff or a Bylaw Enforcement Officer in the performance of their duties or the exercise of their powers.

14. Reporting of Accidental Discharges:

- 14.1. A person responsible for, or aware of, the accidental discharge of prohibited substances into the Wastewater Collection System must promptly report that discharge to the District Office.

15. Compliances with Other Regulations:

- 15.1. Notwithstanding the provisions contained within this bylaw, a person is responsible for ascertaining, and ensuring compliance with, all other District bylaws, provincial or federal enactments and legislation, as in effect from time to time.

16. Fees and Charges:

- 16.1. The District shall charge the applicable fees in the District's Fees and Charges Bylaw, as amended or replaced from time to time, for Wastewater Service.

17. Schedules:

- 17.1. "*Schedule A – Wastewater Service Area*" is attached to this bylaw and will form part of the Bylaw once adopted.

18. General

- 18.1. Any enactment referred to herein is a reference to an enactment of British Columbia and regulations thereto, as amended, revised, consolidated or replaced from time to time.
- 18.2. If any section, paragraph or phrase of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

Read a first, second, and third time this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Finally adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor – Rob Kerslake

Corporate Officer – Tasha Buchanan

Schedule A – Wastewater Service Area

